

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Norberto L. Dueñas

SUBJECT: City Manager's Weekly Report

DATE: February 13, 2015

INFORMATION

San José Marks Milestone in Achieving its Green Vision with LED Smart Streetlight Conversion Program - The replacement of legacy “yellow” streetlights with networked, high performing, energy-efficient LED “smart streetlights” throughout San José was announced at a news conference on February 11. The event was attended by Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmember Ash Kalra, DOT Director Hans Larsen, CEO John Mahoney of OpTerra Energy Services, and Lick Observatory astronomer Raja Guhathakurta. The San José conversion project is the largest ever launched in the U.S., as the City has begun retrofitting more than 18,000 streetlights. Smart streetlights cast a brighter and evenly-distributed light that enhances nighttime visibility and neighborhood safety while using half the energy. As a result, the project will save millions of dollars in utility costs. Lick Observatory was also consulted about the color impact of the new streetlights to ensure they will be compatible with astronomical research. The project is another step toward the San José Green Vision goal to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions and create local green jobs. Leotek, the manufacturer of the streetlight fixtures, has already relocated its North American headquarters and 50 new jobs to San José. By summer 2015, more than 23,000 streetlights will be converted to Smart Streetlights, more than one-third of the total in the city. For more information, contact Steven Brewster, DOT, steven.brewster@sanjoseca.gov or visit, <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=1898>.

“Immigration Reform at a Crossroads” Event a Success - The City is exploring ways it can play an active role in supporting the large immigrant community in San José, especially since President Obama’s recent Executive Order regarding immigration enforcement priorities. Councilmember Ash Kalra, Norberto Duenas, Julie Edmonds Mares, staff from offices of Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Rocha, Perales, and Carrasco, and representatives from Congressmembers Honda and Lofgren attended a regional event on February 11 to discuss opportunities to coordinate interagency planning and support for outreach and education, community preparedness, and application assistance. The event was sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations - Immigrant Relations & Integration Services, Sacred Heart Community Service, and United Way of Silicon Valley, and was attended by approximately 150 people. The City and its affected departments, Santa Clara County, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders will develop approaches to support critical immigrant services in anticipation of increased demand. For more information, please contact Julie Edmonds-Mares, Interim Deputy City Manager, at 408-535-8155.

Department of Transportation Director Appointed to President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology - Hans Larsen, Director of Transportation, has been appointed to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) that advises the President

on science, technology and innovation policy. Composed of 21 members, PCAST includes representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, Google, MIT, New York University, the Santa Fe Institute, Stanford University, Tesla Motors, and the University of Chicago. Since 2010, PCAST has influenced public policy in areas such as STEM education, spectrum management and antibiotic resistance. PCAST now is examining efforts associated with "smart cities," such as real-time sensors and data analytics, and technologies such as self-driving vehicles, energy, and water infrastructure. The PCAST meeting held on February 12 at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in Palo Alto reviewed the integration of technologies into smarter cities and the associated economic and policy implications. For more information, contact Steven Brewster, DOT, steven.brewster@sanjoseca.gov.

Expansion Planned for Successful Over-the-Counter Plan Review Service - The Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement initiated a new [Over the Counter Plan Review Service](#) in July 2014 that enables a range of smaller residential and commercial projects to bypass more expensive plan check services for faster service. Examples of qualifying projects include home additions under 100 square feet; simple home remodeling projects under 300 square feet; and foundation improvements. Since the launch of the program, approximately 400 permits have been issued, providing customers with savings ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars per project. PBCE is now planning to increase the size and range of qualifying projects so that more customers can benefit from savings, while also allocating the department's Plan Check staffing resources more efficiently. More details will be available in March. For more information, contact Chu Chang, PBCE Deputy Director and Chief Building Official, at 408-535-7791.

Public Meetings Held on Projects - PBCE conducted two public meetings on proposed projects on February 5:

- ***School Proposed at 3924 Williams Road*** - In coordination with project applicant Sandeep Khanna of Champion School, staff discussed a proposed conversion of an existing dental office to a school for students from pre-school to 8th grade. The meeting was held at 4660 Eastus Drive in the project site neighborhood, and 25 people attended. The project is currently under review, and public comments may be provided to the Planning Division.
- ***Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Project EIR*** - Consultant firm CH2M Hill and staff conducted a public meeting to accept written comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed bridge project for the Three Creeks Trail. The meeting was a follow-up to the October 21, 2014 EIR Scoping Meeting, where community members gave input on the scope of topics to be analyzed in the EIR. The Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Project in Willow Glen proposes to replace an existing wood railroad trestle with a steel-truss bridge over Los Gatos Creek. Written comments on the EIR may be submitted to the Planning Division through March 13, 2015.

For more information or to comment on either project, contact Planning Division Manager Jason Rogers at 408-535-5543.

Residents Donate Reusable Goods at Neighborhood Clean-Up - At their neighborhood clean-up event in South San José on Saturday, January 24, residents donated more than 2,700 pounds of items including electronics, textiles, clothing, and household goods, along with 52 mattresses for recycling, to Goodwill of Silicon Valley. This new collaboration extends the life of reusable materials before they are recycled or landfilled, and helps San José achieve Green Vision goals for waste reduction and renewable energy. Mattresses are one of the most common items received at clean-up events. They are manually deconstructed at Goodwill's mattress recycling facility in downtown San José, and the fabric, wood, and metal springs are recycled. These clean-up events provide San José residents with a convenient way to dispose of unwanted items that might be recycled or reused. Residents can use the Collection Day Look-Up tool to see when their next neighborhood clean-up event is scheduled: www.sjenvironment.org/lookup. For more information, contact Jeff Anderson, Program Manager, at 408-975-2518.

FREE Tax Assistance Available for Seniors - The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has partnered with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to help low- to moderate-income taxpayers prepare their tax returns for free. With its team of trained and tested volunteers, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has helped people needing tax assistance for more than 40 years. This year there are ten tax preparation sites, many of them located in San José' community and senior centers, and IRS-certified volunteers will be working Monday through Saturday to serve more than 500 clients from February 1 through April 15. To locate the closest tax site to you and to make an appointment, visit http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/ or call 408-535-3570. Please remember to bring all relevant tax documents, ID, last year's return -- and starting this year, all personal documents related to enrollment in the Affordable Care Act. For more information, please contact Suzanne Wolf, PRNS Deputy Director, at 408-535-3576.

Almaden Community Center's Crab Feed a Big Success - The Almaden Community Center hosted a successful Crab Feed Fundraising Event on February 7. The event brought the community together to support the Almaden Community Center and the Almaden Advisory Council, which supports numerous community events and programs throughout the year. For more information, please contact Suzanne Wolf, PRNS Deputy Director, at 408-535-3576.

Wheelchair Basketball Program Gets a New Start at Bascom Community Center - On February 7 and 8, the wheelchair basketball coed team, nicknamed "Thunder," participated in its first tournament, the Seventh Annual California Classic at San José City College. The PRNS wheelchair basketball program was recently re-launched at Bascom Community Center, and participation is growing. The team practices on Wednesday nights and is currently preparing for their next tournament. For more information, please contact Suzanne Wolf, PRNS Deputy Director, at 408-535-3576.

Southwest Airlines Announces Dallas Love Field Service from Silicon Valley's Airport - Southwest Airlines, the largest carrier at [Mineta San José International Airport \(SJC\)](#), will begin nonstop service between SJC and Dallas Love Field (DAL) effective April 8, 2015. This new market, an important destination for many of the 6,600 technology companies located within an 18-mile radius of SJC, is Southwest's thirteenth destination from Silicon Valley's airport. To introduce the new SJC-DAL service, Southwest is offering fares online as low as \$99 each way at [Southwest.com](#) or by phone at 800-I-FLY-SWA. For more information, contact Director of Aviation Kim Becker Aguirre at 408-392-3610.

Medical Marijuana Enforcement Activities - Of the dispensaries that applied to register with the City as a Medical Marijuana Collective, 27 have received a Zoning Code Verification Certificate confirming that they are located in the correct zone and are not in violation of any separation requirements related to sensitive uses. 25 of those dispensaries will continue through the second part of the process that includes criminal background checks and operational review so they can be considered for full registration. The other two dispensaries decided not to operate from the approved location and surrendered their Zoning Code Verification Certificate.

Thirty-four additional dispensaries that applied to register were located in a prohibited zone, were denied a Zoning Code Verification Certificate, and have been disqualified from registration. Four additional dispensaries were disqualified from registration for failing to pay the fees required for processing their Zoning Code Verification Certificate applications. Applications for a Zoning Code Verification Certificate from seven additional dispensaries are still pending.

For the 23 dispensaries that did not submit either of the required applications for registration, the Code Enforcement Division has sent letters to the owners of the property where those dispensaries are located to advise them that the dispensary is not allowed at that location and must immediately cease its operations. To date, City staff has confirmed that 21 of the dispensaries at these locations have closed their doors for business and two are facing eviction proceedings by the property owners. The City has also issued citations to property owners leasing property to the following dispensaries, with fines in the following amounts: Cookie Company, Inc., \$75,000; Platinum Society, \$50,000; San José Organics, \$57,500; Herb's, \$5,000; Blue Sky, \$35,00; and All American Cannabis Club (A2C2), \$30,000. In addition, the City is working with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to ensure the closure of non-compliant dispensaries. For more information, contact Angelique Gaeta, Assistant to the City Manager, 408-535-8253.

San José Information Memos Distributed February 6 through February 12:

- 2015 Living Wage Rates
<https://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/2461390/1/02-12-15PW.PDF>
- Squire Patton Boggs Analysis of the President's Budget Proposal for FY 2016
<https://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/2459814/1/02-09-15CMO2.PDF>
- City Staff Legislative Training - March 27, 2015
<https://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/2459798/1/020915CMO.PDF>

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Corporate Social Responsibility: Volunteering in a City Park - Looking for a team-building opportunity? PRNS with 200 parks has many volunteer projects that are geared toward corporate/business work groups. Various types of activities can be arranged to create a special opportunity geared towards individual work teams and "One-Day Volunteer Events" will fit into any workday or weekend schedule. Each experience has a project goal that can be completed in just 3 to 4 hours, or longer if desired. Training is provided, as well as all tools and supplies. Tasks include basic gardening chores which earn the volunteers that great feeling of accomplishment when everything is completed. Employees, who typically work at a desk or indoors, thoroughly enjoy volunteering outside in the fresh air and sunshine. It's a healthy and unique experience! To schedule your team-building event with San José Parks, please email Mollie Tobias at mollie.tobias@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-3588.

"Do You Know What WHAT?!" The Library Game Show at San Pedro Square Market - San José Public Library was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act grant of \$5,000 to support finding ways to build relationships with young professionals ages 22-39. Using the Design Thinking methods of empathize, brainstorm and prototype, librarians Erik Berman, Nancy Donnell, and Sharon Fung gathered information about what is important to this demographic. They also learned that the library needs to engage these adults by going out into the community, which led the team to develop *Do You Know What WHAT?! The Library Game Show*. In partnership with San Pedro Square Market, the events start February 18 and will be held every third Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Join the fun by inviting your friends, challenge your coworkers, beat your frenemies in head-to-head trivia contests and hilarious stunts. For more information, visit bit.ly/YouKnowWhatWHAT or contact Elizabeth Castañeda, Marketing Representative at 408-808-2175.

Check Out a 'Book' from the Human Library – On February 21, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Almaden Branch Library. The Almaden Branch Library is hosting a Human Library event. During this time, customers will be able to check out a "human book" and sit down for a 20 minute one-on-one conversation. Topics for books range from Goal Seeker and Living with a Disability to Heart Conditions and Burning Man Participant. Human Libraries have been held in countries spanning the globe with the main goal to promote dialogue, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding. For more information, visit bit.ly/SJPLHumanLibrary or contact Elizabeth Castañeda, Marketing Representative at 408-808-2175

San José Public Library host "CodeAcross 2015 - Open Data Hack San José" – On February 21, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. San José Public Library will celebrate International Open Data Day by contributing to civic innovation projects organized by Code for San José, SJPL, and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. Participants will conduct an Open Data Census for San José using VTA's Open Data to visualize transit usage and build useful apps. They will also have the opportunity to write content for San José LocalWiki, as well as help SJPL make its California Room Digital Collections more open and engaging. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/sjplcodeacross> or contact Elizabeth Castañeda, Marketing Representative at 408-808-2175.

San José Pop-Up Project - Now running through March 26, the Pop-Up project has brought nine new retailers to the downtown San José in temporary shops. From apparel companies to a bike shop to shipping-container storefronts, the Pop-Up shops add something new to the old favorite. To check out locations of the stores, please visit: <http://sjdowntown.com/popup/>

PRNS Accepting 2015 Citywide Scholarships Applications - PRNS is currently accepting 2015 Citywide Scholarship applications for the upcoming 2015 leisure class season. The department offers hundreds of classes and programs like sports, dance, music, health and fitness, gymnastics, theater and many more. Scholarship applications and submission directions can be picked up at any PRNS community center or can be found online at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns. For more information, please contact the PRNS customer service helpline at 408-793-5565.



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